



BVM Stories

Sister-Student Relationships Foster BVM Legacy

Students at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, looked forward to spending an hour each week with “their” BVM sister during the past spring semester. Not only did they learn more of the history of the religious sisters who founded their university, but they made lifelong friends and were inspired to a greater awareness of life, purpose and spirituality.

After several meetings with sisters the students conducted video interviews that will be preserved in the BVM archives. You can view a snippet of each of these interviews as sisters share how they were “Open to the Call.”

Student/Sister Pairing: Ellie Northrup and Marie Corr, BVM (Dona)



Student Reflection

These past few months have been a joy and blessing. Rather than get caught up with insignificant details about my own life, Mount Carmel and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary gave me the opportunity to delve into the life of Sister Marie Corr. From this experience, I got to know a woman beautifully touched by God and understand how God and the BVM sisters have allowed her to lead a strong, purposeful and fulfilling life.

In my personal life journey, I am in a time of growth and uncertainty. I don't know what the future holds for me, but neither did Marie when she first entered the novitiate. She and I were able to connect at such a deeper level than I ever anticipated.

Though our lives appeared to follow two entirely different paths, our struggles, hopes and our hearts were in the same place. She opened my eyes to her memories, engrossed me in her stories, and left me always wanting to return to her room for more. I felt like I had just been placed in a Nicholas Sparks novel where his reoccurring theme, history repeats itself, is clearly evident once again.

With every story Marie told, a hint of wisdom was able to sneak into my life. Marie lived a beautiful life of ministry through her work as an elementary teacher, an adult faith formation leader, and as a spiritual counselor. Though we talked every week for months, she still had new stories to reveal on the day of the interview, including sky diving while in graduate school. Her ministry stretched through numerous states and communities, creating an unforgettable impact in each location.

I cannot begin to express how thankful I am to participate in the BVM oral history project this spring. Sister Marie is a wonderful example of a faithful woman willing to put her full trust in God and making the most of every situation in life. This project will allow her legacy and memories to live forever. I am thankful for this opportunity and hope this tradition will continue so others may understand the extraordinary ministry of the BVM sisters.

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